

Penn Cambria Curriculum

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| Course Name | Money and Civic Life |
| Length of Course | <i>.5 credits (1 Quarter)</i> |
| Grade Level | <i>9-12</i> |
| Prerequisites | <i>None</i> |
| Course Description | <i>This course explores personal financial decision-making, civic responsibility, and the impact of current events on personal economics. Students will explore the potential economic impacts of various decisions and choices throughout a lifetime as well as analyze topics related to personal economics topics on a local, state, national and global level. Students will investigate work and entrepreneurship, ways to manage personal finances, build a positive credit history, invest their money and time in responsible ways, and explore the importance of engaging in civic activities.</i> |
| Units of Study | <i>Work and Earnings Personal Finance Management Credit and Consumerism Civic Responsibility</i> |
| Materials | <i>Current events resources (online sources, newspapers, etc.) Personal finance resources (ex: resources provided by PA Department of Education, consumer and credit resources, banking resources, etc.)</i> |

- **Note:** Many of the topics contained within this course are closely interrelated. Therefore, the order of the units may vary and lessons may be designed to meet objectives from across units within the course. Times provided are estimated designed to show the weight given to objectives within each unit.

Unit 1: Work and Earnings

Estimated Time: 2-3 weeks

Standard Alignment:

Economics

6.5.12A Analyze the factors influencing wages (i.e. demand for goods and services produced, labor unions, productivity, education/skills).

6.5.9 E Define wealth and describe its distribution within and among the political divisions of the United States.

6.5.9 F Identify leading entrepreneurs in Pennsylvania and the United States and describe the risks they took and the rewards they received.

6.5.12 F Assess the impact of entrepreneurs on the economy.

Other PA Academic Standards

11.1.9 E Compare the influences of income and fringe benefits to make decisions about work.

13.4.11 Analyze entrepreneurship as it related to personal career goals and corporate opportunities.

13.4.11 B Analyze entrepreneurship as it relates to personal character traits.

Curricular Objectives:

A. Students will:

- a. Analyze the costs of education/training requirements in relation to lifetime income potential, and primary duties of various career choices.
- b. Explore forms of income and ways to earn income.
- c. Analyze the factors influencing wages.
- d. Examine current events and current statistics related to wages, employment, careers, and entrepreneurship.
- e. Investigate the advantages and disadvantages of working for corporations and owning a small business
- f. Hypothesize the future income needed to maintain a desired standard of living
- g. Use current events and research to identify successful entrepreneurs in Pennsylvania and the United States and examine their risk taking and components of their success.

Assessments/ Measurement of Objectives:

- Reading in content area activities
- Written responses
- Projects, presentations, and/or simulations
- Class activities/exercises
- Objective quizzes/tests

Suggested Methods of Instruction / Learning Activities:

- Current events reading activities
- Mini-research projects
- Economic impact of education/career choices projects
- Web Quests
- Authentic wage based simulations
- Design of a small business venture
- Entrepreneur project

Unit 2: Personal Finance Management

Estimated Time: 2-3 weeks

Standard Alignment:

Economics

6.5.12 G Analyze the risks and returns of various investments. (ex: stocks, bonds, mutual funds, savings bonds, retirement savings, savings accounts).

Other PA Academic Standards

11.1.9 B Explain the responsibilities associated with managing personal finances.

11.1.12 E Compare and contrast factors affecting annual gross and taxable income and reporting requirements.

Curricular Objectives:

A. Students will:

- a. Analyze current events related to personal financial management, personal taxes, and investments.
- b. Identify strategies for personal financial management, including banking services, wage decisions, taxes, and investments.
- c. Explain the importance of developing short, medium, and long-term personal financial goals and identify potential plans for achieving those goals through savings and investments.
- d. Demonstrate the relationship of the components of a simple spending plan and how that relationship allows for the managing of income, expenses, and savings.
- e. Analyze the tax impact of various personal financial decisions.
- f. Analyze the risks and returns of various investments.

Assessments/ Measurement of Objectives:

- Reading in content area activities
- Written responses
- Projects, presentations, and/or simulations
- Class activities/exercises
- Objective quizzes/tests

Suggested Methods of Instruction / Learning Activities:

- Current events readings and analysis
- Personal budget/savings project
- Education resources from PDE, local banks, and other reputable organizations
- Analysis of tax forms
- Investment/retirement projects and simulations
- Use of online tools for budgeting and personal finance management

Unit 3: Credit and Consumerism

Estimated Time: 2-3 weeks

Standard Alignment:

Economics

- 6.1.9 B Explain how traditional, command, and market economies answer the basic economic questions.
- 6.2.9 E Explain the laws of supply and demand and how these affect the prices of goods and services.
- 6.2.12 F Identify and analyze forces that can change price.
- 6.5.12 H Evaluate the benefits and costs of changes in interest rates for individuals and society.

Other PA Academic Standards

- 11.1.12D Evaluate the role of consumer rights and responsibilities in the resolution of a consumer problem through the practical reasoning process.
- 11.1.12F Compare and contrast the selection of goods and services by applying effective consumer strategies

Curricular Objectives:

B. Students will:

- a. Analyze current events related to credit, interest rates, prices, and consumerism.
- b. Analyze current events related to the United States economy highlighting components of traditional, command, and market economies in relation to the impact on the individual consumer.
- c. Examine how factors such as supply and demand can impact prices of consumer goods and services.
- d. Evaluate the benefits and costs of changes in interest rates.
- e. Compare types of credit and ways to responsibly use each.
- f. Analyze the impact of a positive and negative credit history.
- g. Explain the components of a credit report.
- h. Analyze specific situations and how the use of credit would provide advantages or disadvantages to each.
- i. Examine how debt can accrue over a life time and how to reduce debt.
- j. Assess the impact of identity theft and identify ways to protect yourself from identity theft.

Assessments/ Measurement of Objectives:

- Reading in content area activities
- Written responses
- Projects, presentations, and/or simulations
- Class activities/exercises
- Objective quizzes/tests

Suggested Methods of Instruction / Learning Activities:

- Content related readings
- Credit report simulations
- Identify theft simulations
- Interest rate activities
- Credit and loan activities/projects

Unit 4: Civic Responsibility

Estimated Time: 1 week

Standard Alignment:

Civics and Government

- 5.2.12A Evaluate an individual's civic rights, responsibilities, and duties in various governments.
- 5.2.12 B Evaluate citizen's participation in government and civic life.
- 5.2.12 E Evaluate how participation in civic and political life leads to the attainment of individual and public goals.
- 5.2.12 G Evaluate what makes a competent and responsible citizen.

Other PA Academic Standards

- 11.1.12G Compare the availability, costs and benefits of accessing public, nonpublic and for-profit services to assist the family.
- 11.2.12B Evaluate the effectiveness of action plans that integrate personal, work, family and community responsibilities.

Curricular Objectives:

A. Students will:

- a. Examine current events related to local, state, and national civic participation, organizations and responsibility.
- b. Analyze the balance between civic rights, responsibilities, and duties at the local, state, and national level.
- c. Evaluate how civic and/or charitable organizations impact individuals and local communities.
- d. Research current community or civic problems and evaluate present solutions to those problems, as well as the effectiveness of those solutions.
- e. Explore various ways to participate in civic life and analyze the impact on both the community and one's self related to civic participation.
- f. Explore ways to use one's talents to benefit the community.

Assessments/ Measurement of Objectives:

- Reading in content area activities
- Written responses
- Projects, presentations, and/or simulations
- Class activities/exercises
- Objective quizzes/tests

Suggested Methods of Instruction / Learning Activities:

- Participation in community service or civic projects
- Research of groups in need, on local, state, national and global levels
- Letter to Your Congressman
- Research activities/ presentations